

WYCOMBE FIGHT BACK TO WIN

Erith's early goal not enough for success in Amateur Cup game

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE Wanderers, although without skipper Len Worley, began firm favourites in their Amateur Cup first round game at home to Erith and Belvedere, but Erith were the first to score. Wycombe hit back to equalise before the interval, and won with another goal in the second half.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Lewis; Thomas, Fisher, Gale; James, Blair, Holmes, Bates, Horseman.

Erith and Belvedere: Jarrett; Crawford, Coombes; Heritage, Hurlock, E. Danks; West, Moore, Johnson, Baker, McGillicuddy.

Referee: P. Lancaster (London).

Bates brought an early thrill for the crowd of about 4,000 when he took up a pass from Horseman in the first few minutes, and sent in a powerful shot which Jarrett saved brilliantly.

Wycombe looked more dangerous in attack and had a good deal more of the play, and it came as a shock for the home crowd when Erith took the lead after 15 minutes.

Thomas and Fisher were deceived by the bounce of the ball from a left wing pass and centre forward JOHNSON nipped through to head past Brown.

Three times Wycombe were awarded free kicks just outside the penalty area and from one of them Bates went within inches of scoring.

DESERVED EQUALISER

One fine solo run by Horseman beat three or four defenders but his shot, too, went wide.

Erith packed their goal very effectively in face of intensifying Wycombe pressure. Their own raids were spasmodic, but against them the home defence lacked their customary cool certainty.

But it was certainly no more than Wycombe deserved when the equaliser came after 34 minutes, HOLMES scoring after a slick bout of passing with Bates.

A little later Jarrett saved a hot shot from James.

Right winger West had an excellent chance for Erith, after an indirect free kick, but ballooned the ball high over the bar.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 1, Erith and Belvedere 1.

Wycombe soon took up the assault again in the second half and one characteristic drive by Bates was stopped by Hurlock with a header which almost knocked him out.

Then James and Horseman both tested the goalkeeper with accurate shots after determined wing runs.

The home defence failed to reproduce their usual confident form, but Erith were rarely able to sustain their counter-attacks for very long.

In one brisk raid, however, Johnson sent in a swift ground shot which Brown did well to stop at the last second.

Wycombe hopes for a winner looked largely to depend on Bates, moving out to the right wing to take advantage of the slope, and one of his sparkling solo runs was checked only just in time by the visitors' burly centre half, Hurlock.

Jarrett punched out a goal-worthy wing shot from Horseman and when Erith swept back at top speed, a quick ground shot by Baker sped just the wrong side of the upright.

Wycombe's all-out attack was repeatedly frustrated.

Erith hit back with renewed energy and the home goal came under fierce pressure, particularly from the right wing pair.

Five minutes from the end however, Wycombe swept back again and BATES put them ahead with a fine goal from a pass by Holmes.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE, W.	2
ERITH	1